

NEW BIRDS FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO.

BY ALFRED W. ANTHONY.

About one hundred and fifty miles south of the United States boundary, and midway between the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California, lies a high range of mountains, which is marked upon the later maps of the peninsula as "San Pedro Martir." The region embraces a series of small ranges which rise from an elevated *mesa*, having a mean elevation of about 8,000 feet, and an extent of sixty by twenty miles. In these mountains are born the only streams that this part of the peninsula affords, and an abundance of pine timber is found throughout the region. Many of the ranges on the eastern side of the San Pedro Martir rise to an elevation of 11,000 feet, or even, in one or two places, to 12,500 (?) feet.

Arising as the region does from the dry, barren hills of the lower country to an elevation higher than any other on the peninsula or in Southern California, and presenting in its alpine vegetation and clear mountain streams features so different from the dry manzanita and sage-covered hills of the surrounding country, it is not unnatural to suppose that its animal life would be found to differ in some respects from that of the surrounding hills. It was not, however, until I had been in Lower California over two years that I was able to visit the locality and give it a little of the attention that it deserves.

During the latter part of April and the first of May of the present year (1889) my friend, Mr. Charles H. Townsend, and myself spent two weeks in exploring the higher ranges of this region, and although the results of our trip are very flattering, we were by no means able to complete the work. About one hundred birds were taken, yielding the following new forms, and others will perhaps prove entitled to separation when we have secured a larger series.

Oreortyx picta confinis subsp. nov.

SAN PEDRO PARTRIDGE.

Subsp. char.—Differing from *Oreortyx picta plumifera* in grayer upper parts and thicker bill.

Adult ♂. (Type, No. 2560, collection of A. W. Anthony from San Pedro Martir, Lower California, April 25, 1889, elevation, 8,500 feet.) Back, wings and tail, ashy brown with slight olive wash. Inner secondaries and tertiaries bordered with white, forming, when wings are closed, two parallel bars of white. Foreparts, above and below, slaty blue, slightly grayer above. Belly, rich chestnut, banded on the sides with bars of white and black. Flanks, rufous. Tibiæ, ashy. Crissum, velvety black streaked with chestnut. Throat, chestnut, bordered laterally with narrow black line, which in turn is bordered with white. A white mask surrounding the bill and changing to grayish on forehead. Arrow plumes, black.

Habitat.—Mountains of San Pedro range, Lower California, reaching to valleys in winter.

From an elevation of six thousand to ten thousand feet above the sea, in the San Pedro Mountains, I found this quail abundant, occurring wherever water and timber afforded it drink and shelter, and only leaving the higher elevations when the frosts of winter make life in the lower valleys desirable. A few pairs bred about my camp at Valldores, six miles from the base of the range and 2,500 feet above the sea; but nearly all of the flocks that wintered along the creek at this point were gone in March, leaving only an occasional pair, which sought the shelter of the manzanitas high up on the hill-sides, from whence their clear, mellow notes were heard morning and evening, so suggestive of cool brooks and rustling pines, but so out of place in the hot, barren hills of that region.

DIMENSIONS OF *OREORTYX PICTA CONFINIS*.

COLLECTION OF A. W. ANTHONY.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.....	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Depth of Bill...	Tarsus.....	Remarks
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	
2557	♂ ad.	Valladores.	April 20, 1889.	138	90	13	9	34	Type.
2560	♂ ad.	San Pedro Martir...	April 25, 1889.	139	93	14	9	35	
2558	♂ ad.	" " ...	May 7, 1889.	141	98	14	9	35	
2562	♂ ad.	" " ...	May 6, 1889.	140	83	14	10	35	
2561	♀ ad.	" " ...	May 6, 1889.	141	93	14	10	35	
2559	♀ ad.	Valladores.	March 29, 1889.	133	77	14	10	34	

Aphelocoma californica obscura subsp. nov.

BELDING'S JAY.

Subsp. char.—Differing from *A. californica* in much darker colors and weaker feet.

Adult ♂. (Type, No. 2543, coll. of A. W. A., from Valladores, L. C., Sept. 8, 1888.) Above, indigo blue, darker on head. Dorsal patch, smoky drab. Auriculars, black, glossed with blue. Superciliary stripe, white. Gular streaks with blue wash. Lower parts, gray, much darker than true *A. californica*. Under tail coverts, bluish. Under surface of tail, smoky black with blue reflection.

Habitat.—Lower California in region of San Pedro range, ranging as high as 10,000 feet.

The great variation in size and color of the dorsal patch in the series from this region, suggests the presence of a second race, inhabiting the higher ranges, and characterized by small size and brownish dorsal patch, together with dark blue upper parts; the material at my command, however, does not warrant its separation. Specimens from the lower valleys agree in size with No. 2543, as given below:

DIMENSIONS OF *APHELOCOMA CALIFORNICA OBSCURA*.

COLLECTION OF A. W. ANTHONY.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus,	Middle toe and claw,	Remarks
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	
2543	♂ ad.	Valladores	Sept. 8, 1888.....	127	165	26	37	28	Type.
2544	♂ ad.	San Pedro Martir...	May 6, 1889.	117	148	25	38	26	
2542	♀ ad.	" " ...	May 5, 1889.	114	138	24	33	25	
2545	♀ ad.	" " ...	July 3, 1887.....	119	142	23	34	26	

Junco townsendi sp. nov.

TOWNSEND'S JUNCO.

Sp. char.—Similar to *J. annectens*, but differing in smaller size, darker gray of the head, neck and chest; the back less brown and the sides less extensively pinkish.

Adult ♂. Type, No. 2539, coll. of A. W. A., from San Pedro Mountain, L. C., April 28, 1889). Head, neck and breast all around, clear, slatey, gray, much darker than *J. annectens*, but paler than *J. hyemalis oregonus*. Lores and crown, blackish. Dorsal and interscapular region, ashy brown, in some specimens scarcely differing from the head and neck. Rump and upper tail coverts, ashy, first two lateral rectrices pure white, the rest blackish with ashy edges. Wings, blackish, primaries and secondaries with gray edges. Sides, pink. Belly and under tail coverts, white. Mandibles and feet, flesh color. Iris, hazle.

Adult ♀. (Type, No. 2538, coll. of A. W. A., from San Pedro Mountain, April 29, 1889). Head, neck and chest all around, uniform dark gray, lighter than male. Lores, blackish. Dorsal patch, very faintly defined. Rump, clear ashy. Pink of sides, paler and less extensive than male. Lower

parts white. Outer three rectrices white, third edged with dusky. Iris, hazle.

I take great pleasure in naming this excellent species for my friend, Mr. Chas. H. Townsend, of the U. S. S. *Albatross*, as a slight recognition of the much valuable work he has done for western ornithology.

J. townsendi is probably the most abundant bird to be found in the timbered parts of the San Pedro Mountain, and is, I think, resident, as I have never, with a single exception, taken the species at the base of the range. The characters described are remarkably constant. No. 2540, a fine adult male, sports the abnormal passerine number of thirteen rectrices, and has evidently lost a fourteenth. *J. h. oregonus* occurs along the base of the range in winter, but does not seem to join *J. townsendi* in nesting in the high altitudes.

DIMENSIONS OF *JUNCO TOWNSENDI*.

COLLECTION OF A. W. ANTHONY.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus	Remarks.....
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	
2539	♂ ad.	San Pedro Mt	April 28, 1889.....	78	75	10	20	Type.
2540	♂ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889....	78	76	10	20	
2537	♀ ad.	" "	April 29, 1889.....	72	67	10	20	
2538	♀ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889.....	73	73	10	20	Type.
2541	♀ ad (?)	Valladores	Dec. 8, 1888..	70	72	10	21	

Sitta pygmæa leuconucha subsp. nov.

WHITE-NAPED NUTHATCH.

Subsp. char.—Differs from *S. pygmæa* in larger bill, grayer head, more conspicuous nuchal patch and whiter underparts.

Adult ♂. (Type, No. 2534, coll. of A. W. A., from San Pedro Mountain, Lower California, April 28, 1889). Whole top of head, ashy gray. Lores and line running through the eye and including upper auriculars, black. A large and conspicuous nuchal patch of white. Dorsal region, ashy-gray. Scapulars and rump, slatey-blue. Chin and throat, pure white; rest of lower parts, soiled white. Flanks, ashy. Wings, blackish. Second primaries slightly edged with white. Central tail feather like back, with long white spot at base, the others black, first pair with broad oblique white bar.

Habitat.—Higher parts of San Pedro Mountain, Lower California. A large series collected in April and May show a very constant variation from the specific form. They were very abundant throughout the pines and were evidently nesting; no nests, however, were taken.

DIMENSIONS OF *SITTA PYGMEA LEUCONUCHA*.

COLLECTION OF A. W. ANTHONY.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.....	Tail	Culmen.....	Tarsus	Depth of Bill at Nostrils	Remarks
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	
2533	♂ ad.	San Pedro Mt.	April 28, 1889 ...	65	40	15	16	4	Type.
2534	♂ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889	67	42	17	17	4	
2535	♂ ad.	" "	April 29, 1889	70	40	15	16	4	
2536	♂ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889 ...	67	38	15	17	4	
2529	♂ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889	69	42	16	16	4	
2529	♀ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889 ...	67	42	14	17	4	
2530	♀ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889 ...	66	41	15	17	4	
2531	♀ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889	65	39	15	17	4	
2532	♀ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889 ...	66	40	15	16	4	

Sialia mexicana anabelæ subsp. nov.

ANABEL'S BLUEBIRD.

Subsp. char.—Differing from *S. mexicana* in slightly larger form, in the bay of the breast, which is divided by the blue of the throat, restricting it to patches on the sides of the breast, and in the almost entire absence of bay on scapulæ.

Adult ♂. (Type, No. 2548, coll. of A. W. A., from San Pedro Mountain, Lower California, April 28, 1889). Above, rich azure blue, a faint touch of chestnut on some of the scapular and dorsal feathers. Throat, neck and central breast, azure blue, extending to the middle of the belly, giving place to the bluish white of the lower belly and under tail coverts. A patch of chestnut on sides of breast extending half way down the sides.

Adult ♂. (Type, No. 2547, coll. of A. W. A., from San Pedro Mountain, May 1, 1889). Head and neck above, pale blue with pearly reflections. Dorsal patch, pale rusty brown. Rump, pale azure blue. Breast and sides, rusty brown. Throat, sides of head and belly, gray. Crissum with blue wash.

Differs from the females of *S. mexicana* in my collection in the more pronounced blue of the head and larger size.

Habitat.—Mountains of Lower California, Mount Lassen, Cal., Puget Sound, Utah and Nevada.

Named for my wife, Anabel Anthony.

From the series of thirty adult birds before me I am able to find but three that can not be immediately referred to one race or the other; these are: No. 53319, coll. U. S. Nat. Museum, Carson City, Nevada; No. 82589, coll. Nat. Museum, Marin County, Cal.; and No. 821, coll. A. W. Anthony, Washington County, Oregon. These are all male birds and midway between the two forms, having the bay of the breast scarcely divided by the blue, and but little rusty coloring on the scapulæ. Three National Museum speci-

mens which I have examined, from "Mount Lassen, Cal.," "Genoa, Utah," and "Puget Sound;" are undoubtedly referable to *S. m. anabelæ*. These, Mr. Ridgway writes me, are the only ones in the National Museum collection that match my specimens from Lower California. During our stay of two weeks on the San Pedro Mountain, both *S. mexicana* and *S. m. anabelæ* were everywhere common; the latter, however, greatly outnumbering the specific form, and in a great measure flocking by itself. At a distance of one hundred yards it was quite easy to identify the two forms; and I do not think that either Mr. Townsend or myself were guilty of shooting a male bird the identity of which we were not sure of beforehand; the greater amount of blue in the plumage of the adult male giving it an appearance much darker than that presented by typical *S. mexicana*. Most of the *S. m. anabelæ* were paired and preparing to nest by May 1st; but I think *S. mexicana* were not yet nesting; they appeared to be birds that were still moving northward, and it is possible that later we would have found them all gone. It is my opinion that *S. m. anabelæ* will prove to be a southern form of *S. mexicana*, wandering occasionally as far north as Puget Sound. A recent trip into the mountains of the eastern part of San Diego County, Cal., failed to bring to light any other than the typical form of *S. mexicana*.

The following tables of measurements will show the relative size of the two forms, and a slight though constant variation will be noticed in favor of the San Pedro birds, which are slightly larger than any *S. mexicana* which I have examined:

DIMENSIONS OF *SIALIA MEXICANA ANABELE*.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing...	Tail....	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus	Remarks.
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	
2546*	♂ ad.	San Pedro Mt.....	May 6, 1889	109	75	13	17	Type.
2548	♂ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889.....	110	73	12	20	
2549	♂ ad.	" "	May 1, 1889.....	109	71	12	19	
2550†	♂ ad.	" "	May 6, 1889.....	108	73	12	20	
2551	♂ ad.	" "	May 6, 1889.....	110	74	13	18	
2552	♂ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889	110	73	12	19	
2553	♂ ad.	" "	April 29, 1889.....	109	73	12	20	
2554	♂ ad.	" "	April 29, 1889	108	72	12	22	
2555	♂ ad.	" "	April 25, 1889	109	74	12	20	
13287†	♂ ad.	Genoa, Utah	June 25, 1859.....	110	74	12	19	Type.
99777†	♂ ad.	Mt. Lassen, Cal....	July 4, 1884.....	110	71	11	21	
			Average.....	109.3	73	12.1	19.5	
2547	♀ ad.	San Pedro Mt.....	May 1, 1889.....	106	67	12	19	
2556	♀ ad.	" "	April 28, 1889....	103	73	12	21	

*From No. 2546 to No. 2556, Coll. of A. W. ANTHONY. †U. S. Nat. Mus.

DIMENSIONS OF *SIALIA MEXICANA*.

No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing..	Tail....	Exposed Culmen	Tarsus.
				mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.
33*	♂ ad.	Riverside, Cal.....	Nov. 24, 1887.....	106	70	12	21
672*	♂ ad.	San Bernadino Mts., Cal..	June 25, 1889.....	107	71	11	22
1160†	♂ ad.	Oakland, Cal.....	Feb. 11, 1880.....	106	68	11	19
2029‡	♂ ad.	Paraiso, Cal.....	April 17, 1885....	102	70	12	19
816‡	♂ ad.	Beaverton, Oregon.....	March 3, 1889.....	103	63	11	19
1055‡	♂ ad.	Beaverton, Oregon..	Feb. 20, 1885.....	101	68	11	19
2525†	♂ ad.	San Pedro Mt.....	April 28, 1889	105	72	12	18
2526†	♂ ad.	Valladores, L. C.....	Dec. 4, 1888.....	106	71	12	19
			Average	104.5	69.1	11.5	19.5
820†	♀ ad.	Beaverton, Oregon.....	March 4, 1889.....	97	64	12	20

*Collection of W. W. PRICE. †Collection of D. S. BRYANT. ‡Collection of W. E. BRYANT. †Collection of A. W. ANTHONY.

In conclusion I wish to thank my friend Mr. Chas. H. Townsend for much valuable assistance in collecting and preparing the material upon which these descriptions are based, and for his generosity in allowing me to describe the entire ornithological proceeds of our trip; also Messrs. Robert Ridgway, W. E. Bryant, and W. W. Price, for much valuable information, and the use of many specimens.